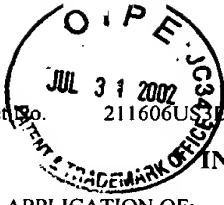


Docket No. 211606US DIV/shb



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Hironori FUJIOKA, et al.

SERIAL NO: 09/912,498

GAU: 1742

FILED: July 26, 2001

EXAMINER:

FOR: METHOD OF PRODUCING REDUCED IRON AND PRODUCTION FACILITIES THEREFOR

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BH  
8/8/02

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE/RELATED CASE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

**REFERENCES**

- ☒ The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references cited in the attached Japanese Office Action listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- ☐ A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

**RELATED CASES**

- ☐ Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together with a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.
- ☐ A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

**CERTIFICATION**

- ☐ Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- ☐ No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

- ☒ Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

*Joseph A. Scafetta Jr.*  
C. Irvin McClelland  
Registration No. 21,124

Joseph A. Scafetta, Jr.  
Registration No. 26,803



22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000  
Fax. (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 10/98)

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DOCKET NO: 09/912,498 DIV

Sheet 1 of 1

SERIAL NO: 09/912,498

Group Art Unit: 1742

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

**Reference AO (49-10109) on Form 1449:**

The cooling of the high temperature reduced pellets in a cooler is a conventional method.

**Reference AP (3-061339) on Form 1449:**

This reference discloses a manufacturing method for producing pellets, obtained by high temperature treatment of pellets formed by mixing iron oxide fine powder and carbonaceous fine power in a reducing furnace are introduced into cooling water to prevent reoxidization.

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